

Divisional Continuation Applications for Inventions B and C, please cancel claims 17-25 without prejudice.

Remarks

The paragraphs of the Office action are responded to through the corresponding numbered paragraphs below. The applicant has addressed each issue in turn and, for clarity, has provided a heading for each issue.

Election/Restriction

1. The Examiner has placed a restriction requirement on this application, stating that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121, Group A (claims 1-16), Group B (claims 17-18) or Group C (claims 19-25). Applicant has elected Group A (claims 1-16) and has requested that Groups B and C (claims 17-25) be cancelled without prejudice. Applicant believes the election of claims 1-16 and the cancellation of claims 17-25 fully addresses the Examiner's restriction requirement of this paragraph.

2-6. The Examiner provided the basis for the restriction requirement of paragraph 1. The applicant appreciates the Examiner's explanation and believes that no specific response is required for these paragraphs.

7-8. The Examiner has provided information concerning communication and/or inquiries concerning this case. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's willingness to communicate and assistance regarding this case and believes no response to this paragraph is necessary.

The applicant has elected Group A (claims 1-16) and has requested that Groups B and C (claims 17-25) be cancelled without prejudice. Applicant believes that all issues and points of the Examiner's Office action have been addressed. Applicant believes that claims 1-16 are patentable over all known prior art. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of October, 2002.



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